

OFFICE OF SPILL PREVENTION AND RESPONSE
NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING

Notice is hereby given that the Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) within the Department of Fish and Game, proposes to amend Sections 851.23 in Subdivision 4, Chapter 4, Subchapter 2 of Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR). These sections pertain to guidelines for Tank Vessel Escorts for Los Angeles/Long Beach Harbors.

PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing has been scheduled at which any interested party may present statements, orally or in writing, about this proposed regulatory action. The hearing will continue until all testimony is completed, and will be held as follows:

June 15, 2004
Port of Long Beach
Administration Building
925 Harbor Plaza
Long Beach, CA
Sixth Floor Board Room
10:00 a.m.

Pre-hearing registration will be conducted just prior to the hearing. Those registered will be heard in the order of their registration. Anyone else wishing to speak at the hearing will be afforded such opportunity after those registered have been heard. The time allowed for each person to present oral testimony may be limited if a substantial number of people wish to speak.

Individuals presenting oral testimony are requested, but not required, to submit a written copy of their statements. The hearing will be adjourned following the completion of the oral testimony.

SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS

Any interested person, or his or her authorized representative, may submit written comments relevant to the proposed regulatory action to OSPR. All written comments must be received by OSPR at this office no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 15, 2004, in order to be considered. Written comments may be submitted by mail, fax, or e-mail, as follows:

Department of Fish and Game
Office of Spill Prevention and Response
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, California 94244-2090
Attention: Joy D. Lavin-Jones
Fax: (916) 324-5662
E-mail: jlavinj@ospr.dfg.ca.gov

PERMANENT ADOPTION OF REGULATIONS

OSPR may thereafter adopt the proposal substantially as described in this Notice, or may modify such proposals if such modifications are sufficiently related to the original text. With the exception of technical or grammatical changes, the full text of any modified proposals - with changes clearly indicated - will be available for 15 days prior to its adoption from the person designated in this Notice as contact person. The text will be mailed to those persons who submit written or oral testimony related to this proposal or who have requested notification of any changes to the proposal.

AUTHORITY AND REFERENCE

Government Code Section 8670.23.1 grants the Administrator the authority to adopt regulations and guidelines for harbor safety plans in consultation with the port authorities of the harbors and other affected parties. These regulations implement, interpret and make specific Government Code Section 8670.23.1. Government Code Section 8670.23.1(d) requires that the Administrator shall give his highest priority to the development of regulations and guidelines concerning tug escorts.

INFORMATIVE DIGEST/POLICY STATEMENT OVERVIEW

The Lempert-Keene-Seastrand Oil Spill Prevention and Response Act (Act), enacted in 1990 by Senate Bill 2040, created a comprehensive state oil spill program for marine waters. Among its many provisions, the Act authorized the Administrator to create harbor safety committees for the following five harbors: San Diego; Los Angeles/Long Beach; Port Huenum; San Francisco, San Pablo and Suisun Bays; and Humboldt Bay. Each committee is required to develop harbor safety plans for the safe navigation and operation of tankers, barges and other vessels within the harbors. Government Code Section 8670.23 also directed the Administrator to adopt regulations and guidelines for the development of tug escort requirements for specified harbors.

There are existing regulations specifying the tug escort requirements for Los Angeles/Long Beach harbors. The proposed regulatory amendments would add work hours, manning and training requirements for tug escort crews performing the required escort and assist operations.

SMALL BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT

OSPR has determined that the proposed regulations may affect small businesses.

COMPLIANCE WITH GOVERNMENT CODE SECTIONS 8574.10 AND 8670.54

In accordance with Government Code Section 8574.10, these regulations have been submitted to the Review Subcommittee of the State Interagency Oil Spill Committee for review and comment; and in accordance with Government Code Section 8670.54, these regulations have been submitted to the Oil Spill Technical Advisory Committee for review and comment.

DISCLOSURES REGARDING THE PROPOSED ACTION

Mandate on local agencies and school districts: NONE.

Costs or savings to any state agency: NONE.

Costs or savings to local agencies or school districts which must be reimbursed in accordance with Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of the Government Code: NONE.

Other non-discretionary costs or savings imposed upon local agencies: NONE.

Costs or savings in federal funding to the state: NONE.

Cost impacts on representative private persons or businesses:

These amendments codify current practices and will not result in significant additional costs to private persons or directly affected businesses. OSPR is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action.

Significant effect on housing costs: NONE.

BUSINESS IMPACTS

The OSPR has made an initial determination that the proposed amendments will not have a significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting California businesses, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states.

ASSESSMENT OF JOB/BUSINESS CREATION OR ELIMINATION

The OSPR has determined that this regulatory proposal will not have a significant impact on the creation or elimination of jobs in the State of California, and will not result in the elimination of existing businesses nor create or expand businesses in the State of California.

CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES

In accordance with Government Code Section 11346.5(a)(13), OSPR must determine that no reasonable alternative that has been considered or that has otherwise been identified and brought to the attention of OSPR would be more effective in carrying out the purpose for which this action is proposed or would be as effective and less burdensome to affected private persons than the proposed action.

AVAILABILITY OF DOCUMENTS AND OSPR CONTACT PERSON

OSPR has prepared a Initial Statement of Reasons for the proposed regulatory action and has available all the information upon which the proposal is based. Copies of the exact language of the proposed regulations, Initial Statement of Reasons, forms, the rulemaking file, the Final Statement of Reasons (when available) and other information, if any, may be obtained upon

request from the:

Department of Fish and Game
Office of Spill Prevention and Response
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, California 94244-2090

In addition, the Notice, the exact language of the proposed regulations, and the Initial Statement of Reasons may be found on the World Wide Web at the following address:

www.dfg.ca.gov/ospr/organizational/legal/regulations/regulations.htm

Questions regarding the proposed regulations, requests for documents, or any questions concerning the substance this regulatory action may be directed to Joy Lavin-Jones ((916) 327-0910), or James Rolin ((562) 598-4291).